

First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana, is called to embody God's love, made known in Jesus Christ, in life-giving ways, and to engage with God in transforming lives, communities, and institutions to reflect God's goodness.

As a community of open-hearted disciples, we covenant to support and encourage one another as we explore God's grace on our journey of faith.

Convinced of God's Grace and Love, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the worship of Christ.

We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, ability, or socio-economic standing. We encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.



Welcome to Worship

We are grateful for your presence and welcome you to participate in all First Pres has to offer!

New here? If you are seated in the sanctuary, you'll see orange and yellow papers nearby. If you have joys or prayer concerns to share with the congregation during today's service, please fill out an orange prayer card. Ushers collect the orange cards when we share the Peace of Christ. The yellow slips of paper are to let us know you are here. We hope everyone will fill out their name(s) and any information you'd like us to have. Please place these in the offering plate when it is passed later in the service.

Children are always welcome in worship with their people! Childcare for pre-kindergarten and younger is available in room 109 in the education wing. Carts with special take-home Easter bags in addition to the usual books and other activities for all ages are available in the rear of the room and outside the door at the front.

Please note: our worship services are live streamed and available on Facebook and YouTube. For more information please visit fpcevw.com.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING

**YOU MAY RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE PRINTED IN BOLD.

PRELUDE

"Christ is Risen"

INTROIT

"An Easter Greeting"

Martin How

Christ is risen, tell it with a cheerful voice, Christ is risen, let the whole wide earth rejoice.

Alleluia, death is conquered, all are free, Christ is risen, Christ has won the victory.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive:

I know that my redeemer liveth: the Lord is risen indeed. Amen.

- adapted from Mrs. C.F. Alexander

OPENING SENTENCES

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

Alleluia! **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

*LITANY FOR EASTER

Love has broken through! **Love has broken through!**

The stone is rolled away! **The stone is rolled away!**

We are alive with hope! **We are alive with hope!**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen!**

Christ is risen indeed! **Christ is risen indeed!**

- litany continues -

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*HYMN . . . no. 232

Easter Hymn

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Lyra Davidica, Charles Wesley

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

...Let us confess our brokenness to the One who makes all things new.

- *confession continues* -

...In Jesus Christ we are made new, forgiven, and free.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS . . . no. 238, v. 1 *Judas Maccabeus*; George Frederick Handel
"Thine is the Glory" Edmond Louis Budry

**Thine is the glory, risen conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us share the Peace of Christ!

There are many ways to share signs of peace with one another. You may cross your hands across your chest or hold your hands together in front of you if you'd rather not shake hands or hug. Please ask before assuming that the person you are greeting wants a hug or handshake. Smiles are always appropriate as we share signs of peace.

- USHERS WILL COLLECT THE ORANGE PRAYER CARDS DURING THE SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST. -

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Risen Christ, break open our silence, speak peace to our fear,
and help us trust your good news. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears [God] and practices righteousness is acceptable to [God]. You know the message [God] sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - [who] is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how [Jesus] went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that [Jesus] did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put [Jesus] to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised [Jesus] on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with [Jesus] after he rose from the dead. [Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about [Jesus] that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the Word of new life. **Thanks be to God.**

“This is the Day”

This is the day; this is the day; this is the day that God has made!

*Choir Open now the door of justice! Let us be glad as we pass through those gates.
This is the place where the righteous may enter, singing to God with thanksgiving and praise.
I will sing praises because you have heard me, offering salvation with grace upon grace,
turning the stone that the builders rejected into the cornerstone, rock of our faith.*

This is the day; this is the day; this is the day that God has made!

*Choir It is the Lord who has done all these wonders, I have seen marvelous things.
This is the day that the Lord has created. Join the rejoicing as every heart sings.
Praise the Creator, the Christ, and the Spirit, from the beginning through worlds without end:
God who is now and who evermore shall be, glory forever, amen and amen!*

This is the day; this is the day; this is the day that God has made!

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GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

We are witnesses to these things: the Messiah is risen from the dead. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“The Strife is O’er”

Richard Shephard

*The strife is o’er, the battle done, now is the victor’s triumph won; O let the song of praise be sung: Alleluia!
Death’s mightiest powers have done their worst, and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
let shouts of praise and joy outburst: Alleluia!
On the third morn he rose again, glorious in majesty to reign; O let us swell the joyful strain: Alleluia!
He brake the age-bound chains of hell; the bars from heaven’s high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumph tell: Alleluia!
Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee from death’s dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee: Alleluia!*

- 17thC Latin; tr. Francis Pott

PROCLAMATION

“Do Not Be Afraid”

- A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE -

*HYMN OF RESPONSE . . . no. 233

“The Day of Resurrection!”

Lancashire; Henry Thomas Stuart
John of Damascus, 8thC

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin’s dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own “All hail!” and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

CALL TO GIVING

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at fpcevv.com/giving, or text “GIVE” to 833-921-6520.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

“Away with Gloom, Away with Doubt”

Barry Ferguson

*Away with gloom, away with doubt, with all the morning stars we sing;
with all the people of God we shout the praises of a King, alleluia, of our returning King.
Away with death and welcome life; in him we died and live again:
and welcome peace, away with strife, for he returns to reign. Alleluia, the Crucified shall reign.
Then welcome beauty, he is fair; and welcome youth, for he is young;
and welcome spring, and everywhere let merry songs be sung, alleluia, for such a king be sung.* - Edward Shillito

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . no. 609

Lasst uns erfreuen; Geistliche Kirchengesäng

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

Brian Wren

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- thanksgiving continues -

...and lift our hearts in song:

RESPONSE . . . no. 552

Land of Rest; American Folk

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

- thanksgiving continues...

...Great is the mystery of faith:

RESPONSE . . . no. 553

Land of Rest; American Folk

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

- thanksgiving continues -

...O God, through Jesus, in the Spirit, now and always.

RESPONSE . . . no. 554

Land of Rest; American Folk

Amen. Amen. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

...The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The bread will be passed to you first; then the cup will be passed to you.

You may eat the bread or drink the juice from the cup as soon as you receive them.

**"Morning Joy"
"Joyful Rhythm"**

**Karen Lakey Buckwalter
Kevin McChesney**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

...in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

*HYMN . . . no. 267

Madrid; Spanish folk melody
Christian Henry Bateman

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

- THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SINCE LAST EASTER
ARE INVITED TO COME TO THE STEPS, BEHIND THE FONT, DURING THIS HYMN. -

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

BLESSING AND CHARGE

...be with you this day and always. **Alleluia! Amen.**
...rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“This Joyful Easter-tide”

Vruechten, 17thC Dutch Melody; arr. Charles Wood

*This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow. My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.*

*My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber: till trump' from east to west shall wake the dead in number.
Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river: lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.*

- George Ratcliffe Woodward

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà” from *Symphony No. 5*

Charles-Marie Widor

First Pres celebrates all who have joined in membership since last Easter:

Sally Becker, Tim Black, Aaron Bumgardner, Guy Crouch, George Evans, Jeremy Evans,
Tara Evans, Ana Hayne, Bob Haynie, Andy Herbertz, Pluto Huggins, Shawn Jenkins,
Marc Johns, Crystal Mahoy, Kerry Norvell, Finch Parker, Charlie Sosinski, April Tolbert,
Matthew Tolbert, Justin Tommeraus, Loren Veazey

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	Jerusha Van Camp
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church	
The Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church	
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

Liturgy for worship has been adapted from the following: Presbyterian Association of Musicians *Child of Blessing*, the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Common Worship*, and *Unbound: Longing for Wholeness* ©2026 Church Anew. Used with Permission.
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First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Rev. Mary Beth McCandless Senior Pastor, Head of Staff	Robert Nicholls Director of Music
Rev. Jerusha Van Camp Minister of Spiritual Formation and Connection	Bri Alley Music Support Assistant
Lora Blaylock Church Administrator	
Gary Harper Church Caretaker	
Finch Parker Technology Coordinator	



609 South East Second Street
Evansville, IN 47713
(812) 423-6297
www.fpcev.com

First Presbyterian Church
is a partner congregation with the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians
and with More Light Presbyterians.



Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Do note that due to the holiday and staff commitments, **office hours this week will not follow the usual schedule.** Please call ahead if you need to be in the building this week; email the staff for anything that is not urgent, or call/text Rev. MB (812-872-4882) if the matter is urgent.

First Pres is pleased to host a **Red Cross blood drive this Wednesday, April 8 between 2:00 and 5:45 p.m.** You can use this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EAEA82EA4F8C34-62974460-first#/> to sign up - if you've donated before, there's a comment section where you can mention that. Blood has a short shelf life, so there's always a need, and Evie Wu, First Pres youth and donor since age 16, wanted to do a service project. The donation process for first-timers takes about an hour, and when you're finished (1st timers or many timers), there are baked goods and a free t-shirt! Questions? Please contact Evie: eviemwu@gmail.com.

Enjoy beautiful music in an historic setting: Director of Music Robert Nicholls will play **keyboard suites by J.S. Bach** on the church's harpsichord at a **house concert on Saturday April 11 at 3:00 p.m.** The location this year is the historic Boeke homestead house, now home to Ross Halvorsen and Lacey Apple and their daughter Elliot. Tickets are \$100 and support children and youth in our music programs attend special church music events, including RSCM Midwest and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conference at Montreat. Contact ross.halvorsen@gmail.com or robert@fpcevv.com to reserve your tickets.

First Light Youth Group meets **next Sunday night (4/12)** to make dessert for UCS **from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** Bring a friend - snacks provided!

S'mores and Evening Prayer returns to the courtyard **next Sunday (4/12)**. Come for a time to recenter, connect, and reflect. S'mores and fellowship **begin at 6:15 p.m.**, with evening prayer at 6:45.

All First Pres **LGBTQ folks** (including LGBTQ friends of FPC) are invited to gather on **Friday, April 17 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Bible Bunch classroom at First Presbyterian Church. Join us for a meal and conversation. Watch your email for more details about the menu. For more information or to RSVP, contact Rev. Jerusha (jerusha@fpcevv.com).

Are you looking for a new opportunity to serve our community? Try **Sister Joanna's Table** with First Pres on **Saturday, April 18!** This weekly food ministry has volunteer needs between 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. which gives folks who can't share their time on weekdays a chance to lend a hand! See [First Reports](#) or [Connect](#) for more details or email Rev. MB (mb@fpcevv.com) subject: *April 18 Food Ministry* if you have questions or to help.

Come **Lunch and Learn** with the Mission Committee - on **Wednesday, April 22**, we'll learn about Habitat for Humanity of Evansville *at their new Volunteer Center*. Bring your lunch to **935 Maxwell Avenue at 11:30 on April 22**. We'll have time for some fellowship while we eat, hear from Habitat, and go on an interesting tour of their facility before wrapping up at 1:00 p.m.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 5

- 7:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Easter Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship

Monday, April 6 - Thursday, April 9

Please call ahead for building access.

Tuesday, April 7

- 3:45 p.m. Teen Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 8

- 2:00 p.m. *Red Cross Blood Drive*
- 4:30 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 6:00 p.m. We Make the Road at Turoni's Forget Me Not

Thursday, April 9

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
- 5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 10

Church Office Closed

Saturday, April 11